

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /079 W

----- 015000

O 311019Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1268

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMCONGEN HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1347

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, VS, CH

SUBJECT: SPRATLY ISLANDS

1. UPI REPORTED ON JANUARY 31 THAT A GVN NAVY TASK FORCE CONSISTING OF THREE SHIPS -- A DESTROYER ESCORT, THE TRAN HUNG DAO; A CG CUTTER, THE HQ5; AND AN LST WITH ONE COMPANY OF RF FROM PHUOC TUY SUBSECTOR ABOARD -- LEFT YESTERDAY MORNING (JANUARY 30) FROM VUNG TAU EN ROUTE TO FIVE UNINHABITED ISLANDS OF THE SPRATLYS. THESE WERE LISTED AS SIN COWE ISLAND, SPRATLY ISLAND, AMBOYNA CAY, NORTHEAST CAY, AND SAND CAY. THE UPI STORY POINTS OUT THAT SAND CAY IS NEAR ITU ABA ISLAND, WHERE THE ROC GARRISON IS STATIONED. (NAMYIT ISLAND WHICH IS ALREADY OCCUPIED BY ONE RF COMPANY -- MINUS -- IS ALSO IN THE SAME GROUP AS ITU ABA.)

2. VNN SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT SUCH AN OPERATION IS IN PROGRESS. THE TASK FORCE ACTUALLY CONSISTS OF ONE CG CUTTER, THE HQ5, AND ONE PATROL CRAFT ESCORT, THE HQ07, AND ONE LSM, THE 405, EN ROUTE TO NAMYT ISLAND.

3. THE HQ07 (PCE) HAS 17 RF TROOPS ABOARD TO RELIEVE 17 OF
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THE 64 TROOPS ALREADY ON NAMYT ISLAND. LSM 405 HAS 119 TROOPS

ABOARD TO LAND ON THE FIVE ISLANDS LISTED ABOVE (IN GROUPS OF TWENTY TO THIRTY). THE TASK FORCE IS TO BE ON STATION AT 0400 FEBRUARY 1 AND TO LAND TROOPS NOT LATER THAN 0700 (H).

4. THE OPERATION IS INTENDED ONLY TO CREATE AN RVN PRESENCE ON THESE ISLANDS IF THEY ARE UNOCCUPIED. THE VNN TASK FORCE COMMANDER HAS BEEN ORDERED NOT REPEAT NOT TO ENGAGE IN ANY HOSTILE ACTION TOWARD ANY FORCES WHICH MIGHT BE IN THE AREA AND NOT TO ATTEMPT TO LAND TROOPS ON ANY OCCUPIED ISLANDS.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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